

not strictly correct; and thus it becomes necessary for the Superintendent to be well acquainted with the characters of all those with whom he deals, with their general habits, the state of things in the County, &c., &c.

I believe I may say, truthfully, that I possess tolerably extensive information of this kind; and for a long period anterior to my appointment to the office of Superintendent, having given a good deal of attention to researches of this sort, I have, I hope, a pretty fair idea of the manner in which all the Counties manage their affairs, the watchfulness of public opinion in each, the manner of treating Officers, &c., while most of the people of prominence are known to me.

I hope, therefore, that I am not likely to do injustice to any Chairman; and I feel sure that in the charge of defalcation which I now make against an officer of this kind, that I cannot be accused of unfairness, of haste, or of acting on insufficient evidence.

I am truly gratified that while I have witnessed some unpleasant matters, I have, as yet, but one charge of embezzlement to make for the last two years; and it affords me still greater consolation to reflect that the Officer in this instance has had the fullest opportunity to put himself right.

When I was in Yancey County, in 1853, I found there, as in many other places, a very irregular record—and I endeavored there, as elsewhere, to instruct the Clerk of the County Court in his duties as Clerk, *ex officio* of the Board of County Superintendents, and to get him to see to it that a Committee of Finance be appointed, &c.

I believe the Clerk of that County has since been faithful to his duties.

I thought that by last year the Chairman of Yancey should have known how to make a proper return to me; and I was the more desirous that he should do it, from the fact that serious charges were preferred against him by the Clerk, and by the Chairman of Madison, part of the School monies for the latter County, as you are aware, having to pass for a while through the hands of the Chairman of Yancey, from which part of Madison was taken. I duly notified the Chairman of Yancey of the insufficiency of his report, and of the